

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An illuminated rope comprising:
 - at least one translucent core component;
 - at least one light source selectively emitting light through said at least one translucent core component;
 - said at least one translucent core component emitting the light received from said at least one light source, radially therefrom; and
 - at least one externally disposed elongate component of translucent stranded fiber surrounding and enclosing said at least one translucent core component, diffusing light emitted therefrom and having a continuously and uniformly lighted appearance when said at least one light source is activated.
2. The illuminated rope according to claim 1, wherein said translucent stranded fiber is selected from the group consisting of a braided rope having a hollow core with said translucent core component disposed within said hollow core of said braided rope, and solid twisted rope spirally wrapped about said translucent core component.
3. The illuminated rope according to claim 2, further including at least one pattern woven into said braided rope.

4. The illuminated rope according to claim 1, wherein:
said translucent core component comprises at least one elongate strand of fiberoptic material having a first end and a second end opposite said first end; and
said at least one strand of fiberoptic material is selected from the group consisting of flexible and rigid strands of fiberoptic material.

5. The illuminated rope according to claim 4, wherein:
said at least one translucent core component has a solid core; and
said at least one light source is disposed at a corresponding said end of said at least one translucent core component.

6. The illuminated rope according to claim 4, wherein:
said at least one translucent core component comprises a hollow tube; and
said at least one light source comprises a plurality of spaced apart lights disposed internally within said hollow tube.

7. The illuminated rope according to claim 4, further including:
at least one portable modular adapter for removably connecting at least one said end of said translucent core component thereto, said portable modular adapter having components selected from the group consisting of a light source for said translucent core component, an electrical power unit for said light source, and a color illumination adjustment device for adjusting the illumination color of said translucent core component.

8. The illuminated rope according to claim 7, wherein:

said portable modular adapter further includes at least one receptacle selected from the group consisting of bayonet, pin and socket, and plug and socket connection receptacles; and

each said end of said translucent core component further includes a fitting compatible with said at least one receptacle of said portable modular adapter.

9. The illuminated rope according to claim 4, further including:

a wall outlet plate having a configuration for removably receiving at least one said end of said translucent core component; and

a light disposed within said wall outlet plate, for selectively illuminating said at least one end of said translucent core component when installed therein.

10. The illuminated rope according to claim 9, wherein:

said wall outlet plate further includes at least one connection receptacle selected from the group consisting of bayonet, pin and socket, and plug and socket connection receptacles; and

each said end of said translucent core component further includes a fitting compatible with said connection receptacle of said wall outlet plate.

11. The illuminated rope according to claim 4, further including an elongate bending element disposed within said translucent stranded fiber component enclosing said translucent core component, for selectively bending and setting to hold said translucent core component and said translucent stranded fiber component to form a pattern as desired.

12. The illuminated rope according to claim 4, further including at least one connector for removably connecting at least a first end and a second end of at least one said translucent core component to one another.

13. The illuminated rope according to claim 12, wherein:

said at least one connector further includes a plurality of translucent core component end receptacles therein;

said translucent core component end receptacles of said at least one connector are selected from the group consisting of bayonet, pin and socket, and plug and socket connection receptacles; and

each said end of said at least one translucent core component further includes a fitting compatible with said translucent core component end receptacles of said at least one connector.

14. The illuminated rope according to claim 4, further including a translucent tubular overlay disposed externally about and surrounding said stranded fiber material.

15. The illuminated rope according to claim 1, further including:

a support structure, said at least one light source being installed about said support structure; and

wherein said translucent core component comprises a plurality of translucent shell portions installed about and substantially surrounding said light source and said support structure; and

wherein said stranded fiber material comprises a translucent rope installed upon and surrounding said translucent core component.

16. The illuminated rope according to claim 14, wherein said translucent core component comprises a hollow, three-dimensional sculpture.

17. The illuminated rope according to claim 1, wherein:

said translucent core component comprises a freestanding, hollow, three-dimensional sculpture;

said light source comprises at least one light installed within said sculpture; and

said stranded fiber material comprises a translucent rope installed upon and surrounding said translucent core component.

18. An illuminated rope and connector therefor, comprising in combination:

at least one elongate fiberoptic strand having a first end and a second end opposite said first end;

at least one light source selectively emitting light through said at least one fiberoptic strand;

said at least one fiberoptic strand emitting the light received from said at least one light source radially therefrom;

at least one externally disposed, elongate component of translucent stranded fiber surrounding and enclosing said at least one fiberoptic strand, diffusing light emitted therefrom and having a continuously and evenly lighted appearance when said at least one light source is activated;

a connector body having at least two illuminated rope end connector sockets, said sockets communicating with one another and forming at least one light passage through said connector body; and

wherein each said end of said at least one fiberoptic strand is configured for connecting with a corresponding one of said connector sockets of said connector body.

19. A connector for connecting a plurality of ends of at least one illuminated rope with one another, comprising:

an illuminated rope connector body having at least two illuminated rope end connector sockets therein, wherein said connector sockets communicate with one another and form at least one light passage through said connector body.

20. The illuminated rope connector according to claim 19, wherein:

said at least two connector sockets are selected from the group consisting of two, three, and four sockets; and

said connector sockets include illuminated rope end fittings selected from the group consisting of bayonet, pin and socket, and plug and socket end fittings.